Increase in infiltration of foreign nationals

1087. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the statement made by the Chief of Army Staff that there has been increase in infiltration of foreign nationals;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any survey in this regard; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of estimated foreign national overstaying/ illegally staying in the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Chief of Army Staff during his press briefing on 11.1.2002 on the eve of Army Day, had stated that the number of foreign terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir had gone up over the years. It is assessed that about 2500—3000 terrorists are presently operating in Jammu and Kashmir, of which about 60%—70% are foreign nationals.

(c) As per the available information upto the year 2000, the number of foreign nationals over staying and illegally in the country are 52987 and 41461 respectively.

Indian PoW in Pakistan

†1088. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian Prisoners of War promised to be released by Pakistan in exchange of release of 9300 Pakistani Prisoners of War captured during 1971 war;

(b) whether it is a fact that despite above promise 54 Indian Prisoners of War are yet to reach their country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

---

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.